

# **Catawba County Emergency Medical Services Standard Operating Guidelines**

## Radio Communications

To make sure that EMS units maintain radio contact with the Communications Center and other EMS units this policy explains the operations of communications within the EMS.

- In order to comply with the National Incident Management System, all radio communications will be conducted in plain English. The use of 10 codes, regional codes, or any other commonly used code is prohibited.
- It is the responsibility of each EMS crew to maintain radio contact with the communications center and other crews.
- Regular units are issued two walkies. Backup or reserve units will have a minimum of one walkie.
- Walkies must be set to CCEMS Primary (Channel 1). The walkies are pre-set to CCEMS Primary as the priority scan channel. Other channels may be scanned but changing of the priority scan channel is forbidden. Personnel who set scan channels for their own preference must change those channels back to the original settings prior to the end of their shift.
- Mobile units must be set to CCEMS Primary (Channel 1). Other channels may be set to scan in the mobile radios at the crew's discretion. Any alteration of the mobile scan list should be reset to the minimum list at the end of the shift and is the responsibility of the person making the alteration.
- When EMS crews must enter areas known to have no or poor radio reception, C-MED must be notified. When back in radio range, the crew must again notify C-MED of their status.
- Only radios issued by the Catawba County EMS may be carried while on duty.
- In the event of a county-wide radio system failure, all EMS units will set their walkies, mobiles, and base stations to "CCEMS Simplex". A secondary frequency in the event of a county-wide system failure is "CCEMS 220". This change will be made at the discretion of the on-duty Supervisor after consulting with the Communications Center Supervisor. CCEMS Simplex will be the preferred channel.
- Calls and scenes that may generate excess radio traffic will be handled by the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services SOG entitled Tactical Radio Frequencies.